

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 29, 30, 51-54 and 56-58 are pending. By this Response claims, 31-50 and 55 are cancelled. Allowance of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

During the personal interview conducted on November 2, 2004, the Examiner agreed that inclusion of the limitations of claim 55 into the independent claims 1 and 3 would overcome the cited references. By this Response, applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 to include the features of claim 55 as suggested in the interview.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Hicks (U.S. 5,359,387) and Shih, et al. (U.S. 6,674,923) and claims 1-7, 29-30 and 51-58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Slater, et al. (U.S. 6,157,435). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 3 to include the features of claim 55. Therefore, based on the Examiner's assertion that this combination overcomes the cited references, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7, 29-30, 51-54 and 56-58 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/000,368

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

DRA/CJB:cb
1982-0174P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000